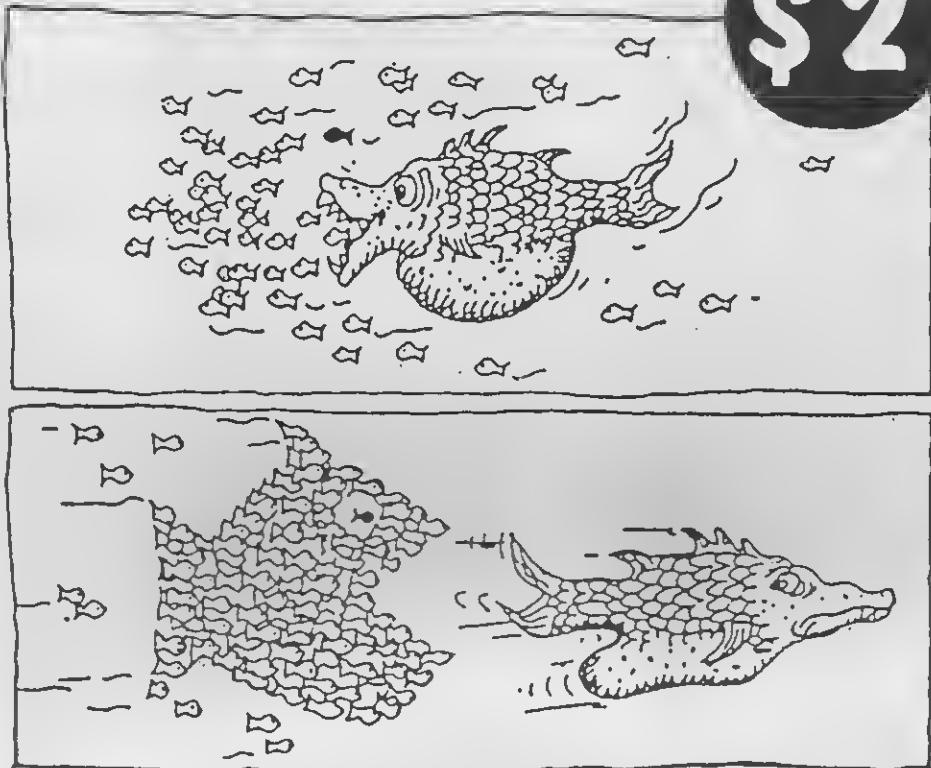


DECLARATION

ISSUE ONE



The Tide is Turning

IN THIS ISSUE

- ✿ Te Roopu Rawakore update
- ✿ Your Civil Rights
- ✿ Budget Bludget
- ✿ Angel Bank

FREE POSTER
ENCLOSED

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Declaration

JULY/AUGUST 1994



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Editorial...

Welcome to the first edition of the new Te Roopu Rawakore publication, **Declaration**. This magazine is produced by the Molten Media Information Collective which is an unemployed printing group in Christchurch. This collective provides publishing for a variety of community groups. Once again we are demonstrating that the so-called bludgers of society are not necessarily useless or lazy! We don't need Government charity to get things done, but a little support for community initiatives would make a refreshing change.

The idea for the magazine is that it will be a bi-monthly (six annually) publication of interest to all Te Roopu Rawakore groups nationwide. Hopefully beneficiaries and Te Roopu Rawakore members will feel free to contribute and work on the magazine.

There are several ways to do this. Articles, letters to the editor, photographs, graphics and reports on centres' activities can be sent to the Editors. Groups should encourage their local talent of writers and artists to produce material, as we aim to publish what people want to see. Feedback on the style and content of **Declaration** would also be appreciated. For those groups with computers, articles can also be sent using the PlaNet system, which several Te Roopu Rawakore groups have now joined.

Another important part of the process is circulating the magazine to get the most effectiveness from our effort. Nationally we will be pursuing subscriptions. Locally the magazine could be a good networking item for groups such as your local friendly unions, foodbanks, churches and community centres.

There was also a lot of discussion in the Collectororial (the collective editors) about the name and **Declaration** was a strong favourite. We decided we're sick of the victim mentality of unemployment and the way that it helps people to belittle beneficiaries. A mixture of defiance and self-reliance seems to us to be the mood of the moment so let's state that straight. Make a **Declaration**.

BLUDGET...

Well, thank you very much Mr Birch. Just coz us beneficiaries have saved this country \$1.7 Billion a year since the Benefit Cuts in April 1991, doesn't mean we expected to get anything out of your stupid Budget Surplus. No, never mind us starving away. Never mind the 300 plus food banks that have sprung up, mainly over the last three years. Never mind the rent rises, the price of school uniforms, school fees, broccoli and the rest of it. And that doesn't even take into the account of the other \$500 million that there might have been if Mr Inland Revenue had been able to get anything out of the Cook Island tax scandal. Just keep locking us up for cheque book fraud, shoplifting coz our kids are hungry and jailing beneficiaries for "alleged Benefit Fraud". Oh woe is us. Wish we had collectively managed to get away with \$.5 billion, not the projected \$40 million that the Investigation Unit gets allocated \$19 million a year to catch us with. Very sane .. in a very sane world.

So where did Mr Birch's most boring Budget allocate all this wonderful Surplus (the first in almost 20 years!) from the "Economic Recovery" that we are all so joyously experiencing? (Maybe it's got something to do with mind altering substances being filtered into the water supply in the Beehive of late),, coz it's somebody else's projected reality, it's definitely not ours.

Some of the high points.

- ① Salvage the ever financially floundering Health Reforms by writing off \$300 million worth of old debt plus \$100 million for Crown Health Enterprises - new equity funding. (Whatever that means).
- ② \$20 million to Mental Health Services - mostly to support the people in the community, with a small amount to institutional care. Yeah ha, that'll really stop the chaos that is going on in our communities!
- ③ And here is the biggy - Low Income families will get \$3 per child family support for the 2nd and subsequent child aged under 13. This is really something seeing as how it is the International Year of the Family and all that and we're on the Security Council of the United Nations so we had better do something here! Why bother? It is more of an insult than anything else.
- ④ Education and Science both have had some extra funding.
- ⑤ Housing NZ tenants will be offered the opportunity to purchase the house they live in. They will be assisted with a suspensory loan of 10% of the value of the house which will be written off over 7 years if they stay in the house over that period.

So you can see why it was touted as the most boring budget for a very long time. So much for the "Social Dividend" that we were promised by Jim Bludger himself.

Subscribe to Declaration Now!!

Individuals \$10.00 annually

Supporters \$15.00 annually

Organisations/Libraries \$20.00 annually

Multiple copy subscriptions available on request
(min. 5 copies)

Contributions to Declaration are always welcome! Submissions for the September/October edition are now being accepted.

Deadline: 1 September.



Advertising Rates

Full Page \$80.00

Half Page \$50.00

Rates for other sizes available on request.

We will also accept inserts/flyers from groups wanting to advertise.

To contact **Declaration** for Subscriptions or advertising write to; **Declaration** P O Box 22-301, High St., Otautahi/Christchurch

Please make cheques out to:

Doledrums Print Co-op

Declaration is happy to accept *free ads* which advise beneficiaries of assistance and support services. We also run paid adverts for businesses which aim their services at unemployed or beneficiaries. **Declaration** does not intend, however, to run a classified adverts section.



Prime Ministerial Task Farce On Employment

The taskforce is a National, Labour, and Alliance initiative. There are eleven members representing employers, trade unions, educational institutions, government and local bodies.

Its Chair is John Anderson, chief executive of the National Bank and a prominent member of the Business Round Table. National party nominees make up all but two of its members. (The Alliance got none).

The terms of reference severely limit the taskforce's ability to tackle economic hinderances to unemployment solutions. (International competitiveness = low wages (ECA), maintain price stability = 0 - 2 % target inflation rate).

The underlying message seems to be that of continued unemployed bashing (long term and recurrently unemployed) as opposed to looking for opportunities for real job creation.

Three scary "solutions" that have surfaced through the media of late are:

- ① A time limit - The idea of limiting the period of time that a person can stay on the dole, for example six months or a year.
- ② Work for the dole - The taskforce is raising the question of "conditions attached to benefits", "the use of sanctions for those who do not satisfy their obligations".
- ③ Means testing - A Business Round Table initiative raised its ugly head referring to means testing unemployment benefits up to the age of 25. Getting rid of benefits for youth under 18 was the first step of the BRT's master plan to get rid of all dole and DPB payments for everyone up to the age of 25.

Facing New Zealand's Biggest Challenge....

Straight from the garbled mouth's of parliament:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The government's economic and social objectives are principally to:

- sustain economic growth, increase employment opportunities, and reduce unemployment, while maintaining New Zealand's international competitiveness;
- maintain fiscal expenditure at levels which reduce public debt/GDP over time, and maintain price stability;
- develop solutions for the long-term and recurrently unemployed;
- improve standards of living and the quality of life and with a view to recommending those policies which can be expected to lead to a significant and permanent reduction in unemployment;
- in undertaking its work, the Taskforce will focus particular attention on recommendations to resolve the problems of those who experience long-term and repeat spells of unemployment.

ALTERNATIVE MULTI-PARTY EMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE

In Wellington various groups are showing real signs of forming themselves into an alternative Multi-party Employment Task Force.

These groups are as diverse as officers of the mainstream churches, those on the night-shelter/soup-kitchen/drop-in-centres circuit, some of the local gangs, polynesian groups, youth and iwi.

Unsurprising to the Wellington Unemployed Workers Union, but most probably surprising to those on the paid ETF, contact is being made with our members who live on the streets, some of whom sniff glue. All want work, all want to be valued.

Two themes running through early papers are "Jobs: Our Survival, Your Security" and as we have the responsibility, give us the authority and the funding.



COMMUNITY BASED EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

During the election campaign last year, Te Roopu Rawakore issued a draft Employment Strategy which, among other things, looked at several grass-roots employment options.

Those options included the much ignored "value-adding" to our exports, and the establishment of a national database so that local manufacturers could get their supplies from domestic producers rather than import. A third area was making the main-trunk line double gauge, coupled with far more regular shuttle services. For example one between Palmerston North and Wellington would enable places like Foxton, Levin and Otaki to reap some of the money tourists bring into the country.

Smaller scale ideas included hemp production, the provision of venture capital, maintenance of public assets and better use of teacher and home aides.

SACRIFICE RATIOS

Dr Donald Brash reckons state assets were sold to pay benefits.

He admitted as much in a meeting with Gaye Dyson, Graham Howell and NZ Combined Trade Unions economist Peter Harris at a meeting on the 6th of May.

He also admitted that employed people were sacrificed to get inflation down. This sacrifice was a deliberate policy of the Reserve Bank. He claimed

in the long or medium term unemployment returned to "an equilibrium". No explanation of what the equilibrium was, or how long it would take.

But take some pride (ha ha) in the fact that we unemployed folk have been one of the key reasons why we have such low inflation. We saved the country.

More on this meeting and the Reserve Bank next issue.

We also challenged the need for economic growth at all, suggesting better ways to distribute what we already have. We consider GATT (the international trade misdeal) as being very questionable.

Needless to say, the system ignored us. But then what is new? We need to develop more ideas so that we are not just seen as a group with slogans but no substance.

NELSON ANARCHIST WORKSHOPS

22 OCTOBER

LABOUR WEEKEND

TRANSPORT FROM THE FERRY TERMINAL
AVAILABLE

FOR WORKSHOPS AND FURTHER
INFORMATION WRITE TO:

P.O. BOX 22-301, DUNEDIN 9010

Te Roopu Rawakore has been trying to get a meeting with the head office of the Investigation Unit to persuade them that their Boot Boys (and girls) are acting like a scaled down version of the Gestapo.

We wrote asking for a meeting between them, us, and people from around the country, to give real examples of what they do. We asked for them to pay the travel. They refused. We wrote back scaling down number of people, and saying the Human Rights Commission were interested as well. The second reply slammed the door in our face. They will not pay a cent to meet us to help them sort out their own inadequacies.

Related to this is our attempt to get statistics from the Risk Management Unit. (We presumably are the risk.) We wrote in August (last year) asking for a break-down by benefit type, gender, marital status and length of time on a benefit. We got a quote for \$15,000 (#@**%@!!!!) for what we wanted. We objected, and even offered to do the computer work ourselves. Eventually Wellington Unemployed Workers Union, MUWRC, HUBCC and NIRC met with the RMU, some guy called Ashton and an advisor, on the 3rd December 1993.

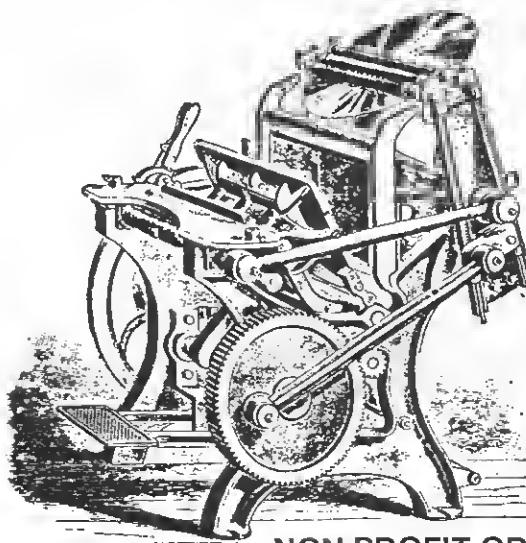
We thrashed out some of what we wanted that could be done on the one computer system and left the meeting. The meeting was organised by the RMU to save time and the Ombudspersons involvement. Well, as of May 13th, the RMU have not written, and when Ashton has been phoned, we have only had the shove. We wonder what is just so embarrassing about the figures. We are interested in a break-down by district office, and how the case came to be investigated ~~anonymous~~ tip-off, file anomalies, data match, or random. Also gender, and if the case was "successful" in their terms that is, did they ~~ever~~ ~~more~~ back off ~~some~~ ~~importance~~. So nine months down the track the RMU are still ~~nothing~~ about

Submissions are being called for an inquiry that the Social Services Select Committee are doing about "privilege" provisions of Section 11 of the Social Security Act. This is about asking for information from any beneficiary about benefit status, whereabouts etc. ISS can impose a \$2,000 fine plus \$200 a day if you refuse to help after the fifth day. This was part of the changes bought in with the Social Welfare Reform Bill Number 3 that many groups working with Te Roopu Rawakore made submissions about last June. We believe that privilege is reserved for lawyers and doctors. Therefore for these powers to be made available to ISS is wrong in it's entirety. As beneficiaries we have rights; a general right to refuse to answer and the need for a benefit system that has integrity, i.e. we get what we are entitled too, as well as not ripping the system off. It is not unlike the Hitler/Stalin/McCarthy tactics used to get information about fellow citizens.

If you have been hassled by the Investigation Unit or Income Support Services in this way please get in touch with your nearest centre and let them know what happened so we can tell the Select Committee about it. If it goes unreported then the department gets away with it and we are powerless to do anything about it.

molten media information collective

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YOUTH STUFF

Te Roopu Rawakore have set up a collective to deal with issues relevant to youth. We did this after the National Planning Conference in early March, as a way of beginning to address the many problems facing youth today. We think it's important that this is done from our perspective, through the eyes and minds of the young people themselves. Too often solutions are presented by people who have no idea of the reality of the "target group's" lives or culture. And they don't work.

There is a strong connection between unemployment and the fact Aotearoa/New Zealand has some of the highest suicide, teenage pregnancy, child abuse and domestic violence rates in the "developed" world. Often this is linked to economic circumstances, and with no youth benefits, this certainly must be a contributing factor to the low levels of self esteem and hopelessness that lots of young people feel today.

This situation must be addressed.

We believe it is important to empower people by letting them know their rights - especially when talking to the police, Social Welfare, the courts, and employers. Knowing how the "system" works, and how to find your way around it can only be beneficial.

We think young people should be given financial independence, adequate income and information and access to the resources they need. This can mean anything from knowing how to get Special Needs Grants out of Social Welfare, to knowing where free and cheap food is (like Hare Krishnas), free medical services, or knowing where food or vege coops are.

We want an end to youth-based wages and benefits. These are unacceptable.

There should be no separate youth rate.

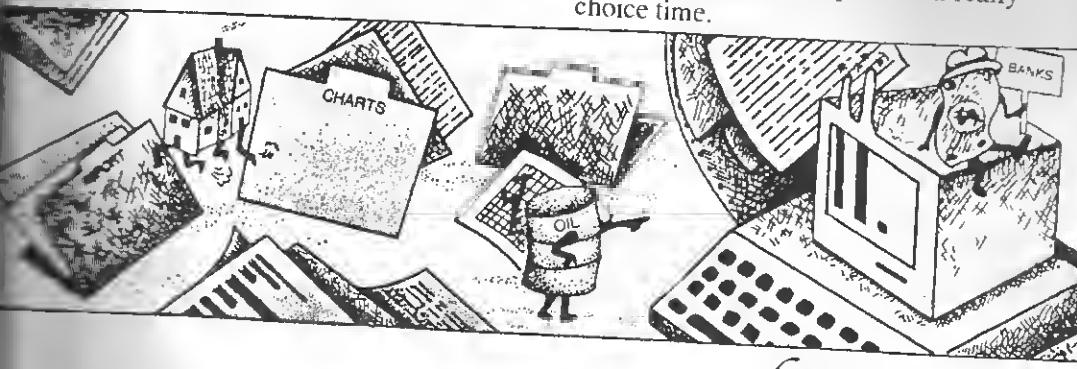
- youth should be entitled to benefits from school leaving age.
- there should be decent minimum wages and working conditions for youth.

This is a *start* towards empowerment. Empowerment means reclaiming or taking power away from Institutions and giving it back to people. We believe that this society doesn't value young people and it is about time this changed.

The Te Roopu Rawakore fund raising gig

There was a benefit gig to raise money for the Youth Collective, early in April, in Wellington. Several bands played - Froithhead, Devoid, Loosehead, Premature Autopsy and Gob. Unfortunately not enough people turned up, so the gig lost a bit of money. The main thing was that people attempted in their own way to raise money. The Hags put on some awesomely yummy things to eat - heaps of vegan stuff. The gig was a bit late getting off the ground due to technical faults but was well worth the wait when it came together.

It's good to see Wellington exploring different venues (not that there are many to check out anyway!) It was a cool night, really long with so many different bands playing good sets. It raised Te Roopu's profile among Wellington's youth, and lots of people had a really choice time.



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - KOMIHANA TIKANGA TANGATA

The discrimination by financial institutions and retailers against beneficiaries seeking home loans and credit for goods and services is causing some concern for the Human Rights Commission.

The Commission has just released its statistics for the first three months of operation under the new Human Rights Act 1993, which came into force on 1 February 1994.

The new legislation makes discrimination unlawful by reason of Employment Status, which includes being unemployed, a beneficiary, or in receipt of Accident Compensation.

Of the 64 formal complaints being investigated so far this year, 5 are from beneficiaries who claim they have been discriminated against when seeking home loans or when applying for goods and services.

According to Proceedings Commissioner Peter Hosking, beneficiaries have also approached the Commission's Education Officers when giving talks in the community, expressing their concern about the high incidence of this type of discrimination.

"The major area of complaint is the refusal of home loans and credit by financial institutions and retailers simply because the applicants are beneficiaries," he said.

"People should not be assessed on their source of income but rather on their ability to make repayments," said the Proceedings Commissioner.

"When the Human Rights Commission Act was introduced in 1977, there were a large proportion of complaints by women who were denied credit and other financial services because of their sex and/or marital status," he said.

"By 1994, the incidence of this type of complaint has reduced a great deal and it is to be expected that discrimination against beneficiaries will similarly reduce as financial institutions and retailers realise that it is unlawful under the new legislation to discriminate against people because of their employment status," said Peter Hosking, the Proceedings Commissioner.

CONTACT: Peter Hosking
Proceedings Commissioner
Human Rights Commission
Phone: 09 302 8772
Fax: 09 371 3593
Free Phone: 516 5151



YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS

The difference between a Police State and a Free Country is that in a free country you have the right to question the authority of the police. In an encounter with police officers, try to remember:

Attitude is important. Try to keep calm and be polite - don't let them get you angry (more than likely they will try). Don't swear at them - this is an offence. NEVER make physical contact - they will charge you with assault. Treat the police with respect - they have a job to do. They don't make the law, they enforce it. Don't be smart, just keep your cool and try to be as friendly as possible.

If questioned by the police, tell them your name, address, date of birth, and occupation (you don't need to tell them who your employer is). This is all you need to say. If you are driving a car you must tell them the registered owner (if they ask).

Always try to have a pen handy. You have the right to record their details, ie; police ID number (a black badge, usually on the shoulder); car registration; place and time the incident occurred. This is important - you can't lay any complaints without these details.

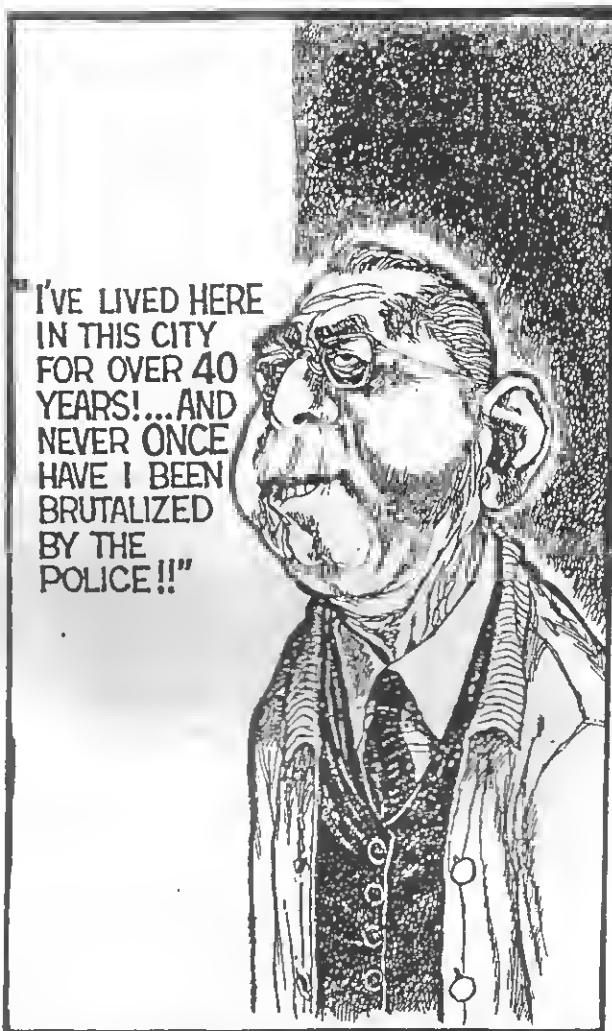
Never go anywhere with the police unless they have arrested you. You have the right to a witness - if you are with a friend link arms and don't be split up.

They may ask to search your bag or pockets. **NEVER consent to a search.** You must state "I am not consenting to a search". This will make any attempt to search you illegal. If they have a search warrant, check the details (they must give you a copy). If any details are incorrect, the warrant is invalid.

If they really want to search you but have no warrant, they can invoke special powers under various Acts of parliament, eg Misuse of Drugs Act, Crimes Act, Firearms Act etc.

They must state that they are invoking the Act, merely threatening you with its power is meaningless. Remember - invoking an Act is a big deal for the police. Within 3 days they must report to the police commissioner detailing their reasons for invoking the Act. They must have a good reason. If you think they didn't - complain.

If arrested, they must tell you the charge. At the police station call a lawyer or someone for advice. Do



not make a statement or sign anything except your property sheet.

In court - the police will recommend you plead guilty "to make it easier on you". Really, this makes it easier on them. Enter nolle pross - your case will be remanded. You may wish to drag your case out as long as possible - make them waste money and time processing you.

This is only very basic civil rights information. For further information, contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Law Centre, Council for Civil Liberties, or NORML group.

The information in this article was provided by Christchurch NORML, and we're very grateful to Te Roopu Rawakore for letting us reach out to people who might one day need us.

Benefit Information

Special Needs Grants

This is a method of supplementary assistance that New Zealand Income Support Service operates.

It was largely revamped as part of the benefit cuts of April 1991, and was meant to act as Jenny Shipley's "safety net".

The SNG comes in two categories, recoverable and non-recoverable. Some of these are listed below. NZISS have a complete list of what is available.

The basic rules are;

an emergency situation exists
the need cannot be met in any other way

advance of benefit or special benefit is not a better way to meet the need

you have less than \$673 as an individual,

or \$1,122 if you have a partner or dependants you live here in normal circumstances.

There is a problem with how an emergency is defined, in that district offices claim that if the situation could be avoided then it is not an emergency.

We have a different definition: basically, if your house is burning it is an emergency, even if the cause of the fire could have been avoided. As it happens, the Social Policy Agency, (the policy making people at DSW in Wellington) agree with us. Therefore, our recommendation is to go for it.

If you get ~~burned~~ down, get the ~~demolition~~ reviewed. If necessary go the Appeal Authority.

The only way we can beat them is to challenge them. A centre near you can help you with this process.

Major Repairs Advance

An unemployed beneficiary who applied for the Major Repairs Advance to do repairs on his house, was declined in the first instance by the department on the grounds that unemployed beneficiaries were excluded from applying.

But when this decision was challenged and taken to the Social Security Appeal Authority, the Authority held firmly that section 125 of the Act is quite clear about the class of person who can apply for the Major Repairs Advance, ie: "Any beneficiary who is in receipt of a benefit under part one of the act or of a pension or allowance under the War Pensions Act 1954".

This is another example of the department excluding a class of beneficiary without the authority to do so. Taken from Welfare Scene 1994/3 13 June 1994, produced by Wellington Community Law Centre, P.O. Box 24-005, Wellington.



—SURVIVAL SICKNESS—

Capitalism has demystified survival. It has made the poverty of daily life intolerable in view of the increasing wealth of technical possibilities. Surviving has become an economizing on life. The civilization of collective survival increases the dead time in individual lives to the point where the death forces are liable to carry the day over collective survival itself. The only hope is that the passion for destruction may be reconverted into a passion for life.

By Raoul Vanergem from Anarchy : A journal of Desire Armed, #38/Fall 1993 (USA Vol 13 No 4).

Towards a Society based on Mutual Aid, Voluntary Cooperation and the Liberation of Desire.

Pretty damn depressing, but I think it kind of sums up where a lot of people (especially young people) are at and maybe goes some way to explaining our wonderful superannuation saving suicide rate!

The latter is the most important too ... turning around the destruction, especially self-destruction.

Buy New Zealand Made
Buy New Zealand is the cry
Support our local trades
Don't buy imports
Which destroy the business's
we've made

Buy New Zealand?
It is getting late
We'll soon be in the cold
For foreign investors listened
and New Zealand's being sold

by Jim Whitaker,
Hastings Combined Union of
Beneficiaries

WOMEN IN MONEY

A Do-it-Yourself Borrowing and Lending Facility

Money, as any woman will tell you, is useful. A lack of it is limiting if you want to make a small business, expand a hobby into a commercial operation, take a course of training to get a job or buy an outfit for an interview.

A group of women have found a way to overcome the lack of money amongst women by sharing around the little that they have.

The Women's Loan Fund is a club of lenders and borrowers. They do not speak in millions, but \$200 dollars is a fortune when you don't have enough money to get to your mother's funeral!

Sometimes referred to as the *Angel Bank*, the fund is supported by women who lend typically \$500 for other women to borrow. Borrowers join the Club and pay a subscription. A contract is drawn up, signed and witnessed. At the end of the term of the contract, a borrower often makes a donation in gratitude for the help received.

She also remains in the Club to help other women in whatever way she can.

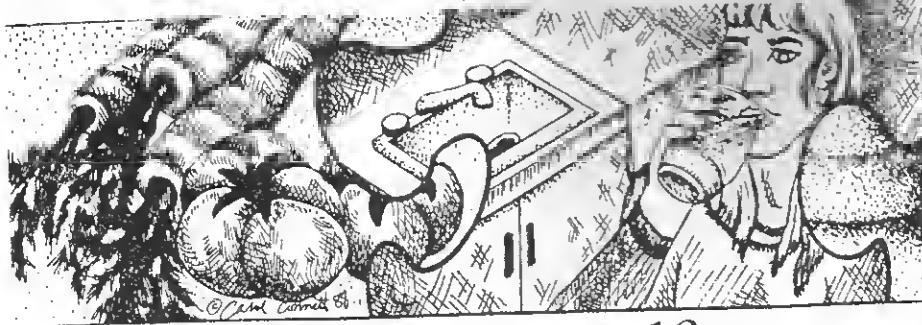
The network of women operates to the advantage of all. The proprietor of an Art Gallery has need of an artist - both members of the Club; the newsletter brings together the owner of a flat to let and a woman needing somewhere to live.

Women helping women is a powerful brew. And yet, the recipe is simple enough for groups of women anywhere to take up the idea and make it work for them. The ingredients are honesty, integrity, some risk-taking and absolute scrupulousness in handling other women's money. The benefits are obvious, so too is the end result if women cheat the system. Since it is their own system and making no profit for outsiders, the members support is almost 100%.

For more information apply to:

Coordinator, Gwenyth Wright, 5 Hanover Street, Wellington Phone (04) 472-5527

Secretary, Cathe McElwain (04) 384-1364



TODD REPORT

The Todd Report The Todd Report The Todd Report The Todd Report The Todd Report The Todd Report The Todd Report

We've all heard lots about the Todd Report and seen thousands of students protesting about it, but is the message getting through to people as to what it means?

The Todd Report is the result of the findings (!?) of the Todd Taskforce, a group headed by Business Round Table Tosser Geoff Todd, which was supposed to "investigate education". In reality, the group was dominated by older white male capitalist prigs, who have no intention of looking at free education or open access to any form of tertiary education. The Todd report basically has two options - to

increase fees by 20%, or to increase fees by 50%. Cool eh?! They justify this by saying that by increasing fees in this way, they will

be able to target marginalised groups - Maori, wimmin, and low income people (yep, that's us - aren't you thankful for the concern of the BRT?) This is ironic considering that it is the right-wing policies of our "governments" which have been largely responsible for marginalising all these groups into non-existence.

The Todd Report is only one of the threats to education at the moment, there is also the voluntary unionism bill being pushed through by Michael Laws. This will effectively destroy student unions if it goes through - which of course helps our friendly

national party people immensely. Another is the threat of capital charging which means that universities have to pay the government the equivalent value of all the resources they use - ie, repay the cost of the land (at market value), the buildings, the computers - everything.

Add all this to the effects of benefit cuts, market rentals for state housing, possible means testing for the dole (up until the age of 25!), closing of the last of the rural hospitals, and the unending list of fucked government policies we've seen since 1984 (and before), and you see absolutely

**no sign of the
ECONOMIC
RECOVERY!!!**

But one small speckle of joy in this huge longdrop of unhappiness - Ruth Richardson has resigned! YEEHAH.

NATIONAL PEACE WORKSHOPS

4-6 JUNE 1994

These were held on the Tapu Te Ranga marae, in Island Bay, in Wellington. Lots of people came from all round the country. The marae was a beautiful and wondrous place to hold the workshops. It is set in regenerating native bush, with lots of whares to work in and much space outside to play and feel far away from the grey and cold Wellington urban sprawl.

The price of the weekend was a barrier for many people - \$80 is lots of peoples' rent & food money for a week.

The peace movement is notorious for its lack of addressing sovereignty issues (not surprising really considering it is mostly made up of white and middle class individuals, to whom this is unfortunately often not a priority). It was a welcome change to see lots of people challenging this issue though. People left the heated discussions about Te Tiriti not only with opened eyes and minds, but with more understanding about the issues involved, and a commitment to address this and learn the real history (herstory, ourstory) of Aotearoa.

Some of the workshops included -

@narchism & peace;

solidarity, which talked about East Timor, Cuba, Philippines, etc;

facilitation by Elizabeth Putnam, - an excellent workshop;

domestic violence - it is important to make the links between sexism and violence, racism and how these all link together. This workshop began to draw together those threads for many people;

The Aotearoa Youth Network (AYN) workshop discussed the AYN and what's happened since Peace Power & Politics last year;

anti-bases - talking about the spy bases at Waihopai, Tangimoana, & Harewood;

The printing & design workshop, which covered everything from computer layout to screen and sticker printing.

There was some sharing of wimmin's experiences, which was excellent too.

One of the down points was the absence of a poverty workshop. Poverty is just as much a peace issue as spy bases and warships are, and this should be recognised.

A transcript of the plenary session (the last discussion at the workshops) is available from Warren Thompson, P O Box 2258, Otautahi/Christchurch



THE SOUTHLAND EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL STORY

The Southland Crown Health Enterprise, which covers Gore, some other place and Invercargill, decided to contract out its cleaning services. Cruthals won the contract and the cleaners were all sacked rather than employed by Cruthals. Cruthals then appointed people who NZES sent along. Those people were in fear of a six month stand down. Southland Beneficiaries Centre and the sacked cleaners decided to picket the Invercargill Hospital, mainly at change of shift - 4 or 5 AM (IN THE MORNING).

The taxi company hired to bring the new workers in tried to run the picket line and knocked some people over, and carried Graham ?, the Southland coordinator, into the grounds. The taxi company allege some damage was done to one of their taxis.

The understanding was that whoever won the contract would employ as

many people and staff as needed, but Cruthals reneged. They are renowned around the world for their bad employment relations. The new contracts were nowhere as good as the old ones.

As well as the pickets, a challenge was made with the Employment Tribunal regarding the conditions of employment.

The Tribunal reinstated the conditions, but as yet has not reinstated the workers. It seems that the new workers, due to their lack of experience, are not doing as well as required. At this point it is old workers who know the job versus new ones who don't. As the old ones were sacked without real cause, the jobs should be theirs. The case regarding reinstatement of workers is still with the Employment Tribunal.

The workers organised the picket themselves and now have become experienced in industrial relations conflicts.

THE UNEMPLOYED ARE NOT THE BENEFICIARIES

The corporations love unemployment and so does the Reserve Bank. Combined with the Employment Contracts Act it gives them a cheap source of labour and makes workers too scared to stick up for their rights.

People in suits might not look us in the eye on the streets, but that's no reason to feel bad about ourselves - we aren't fucking up the Planet, they are.

The whole system is set up for their kind, yet they call us the beneficiaries. Lower wage earners fund this country - the largest profiteers often pay no tax at all and the rich piss themselves at the mention of raising their taxes. "Unfair!" they cry, as if they have a fucking clue what that means.

We need to change what we think of as work. The so-called 'unemployed' do good work - treating people decently, helping each other out, having fun. In fact I'd say that developing alternative lifestyles is probably the most valuable kind of work that there is.

On the other hand those with the 'best jobs' are responsible for so much shit it's just not funny. In a sane world we wouldn't be paying them hundreds of thousands of dollars, we'd be locking them up.

From *Rabble Babble*

W.U.W.U.

UPDATE ON THE WELLINGTON UNEMPLOYED WORKERS UNION

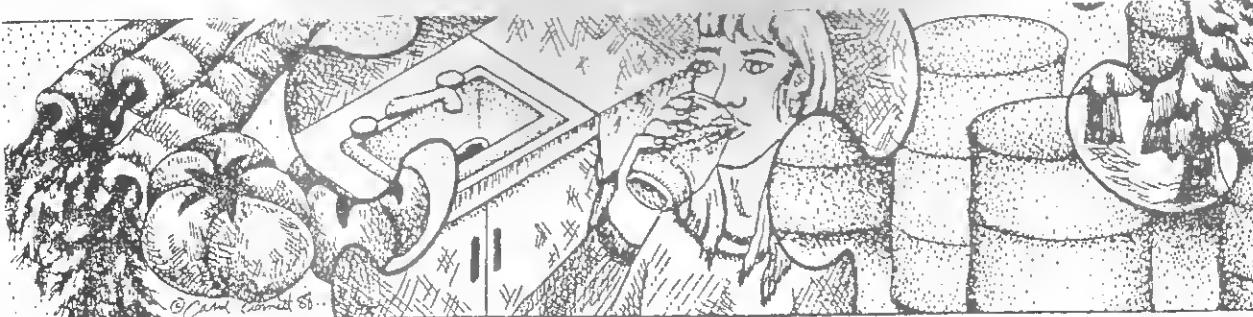
We are in the process of making a submission to the Employment Task Force concerning the role of the government in economic management. The need is for greater (or even any) cooperation in industry development, finance for small businesses, and above all, the creation of jobs.

We're also submitting a critique of THE ISSUES book, and discussing the loss or lack of cultural, social and economic freedom. We're making the

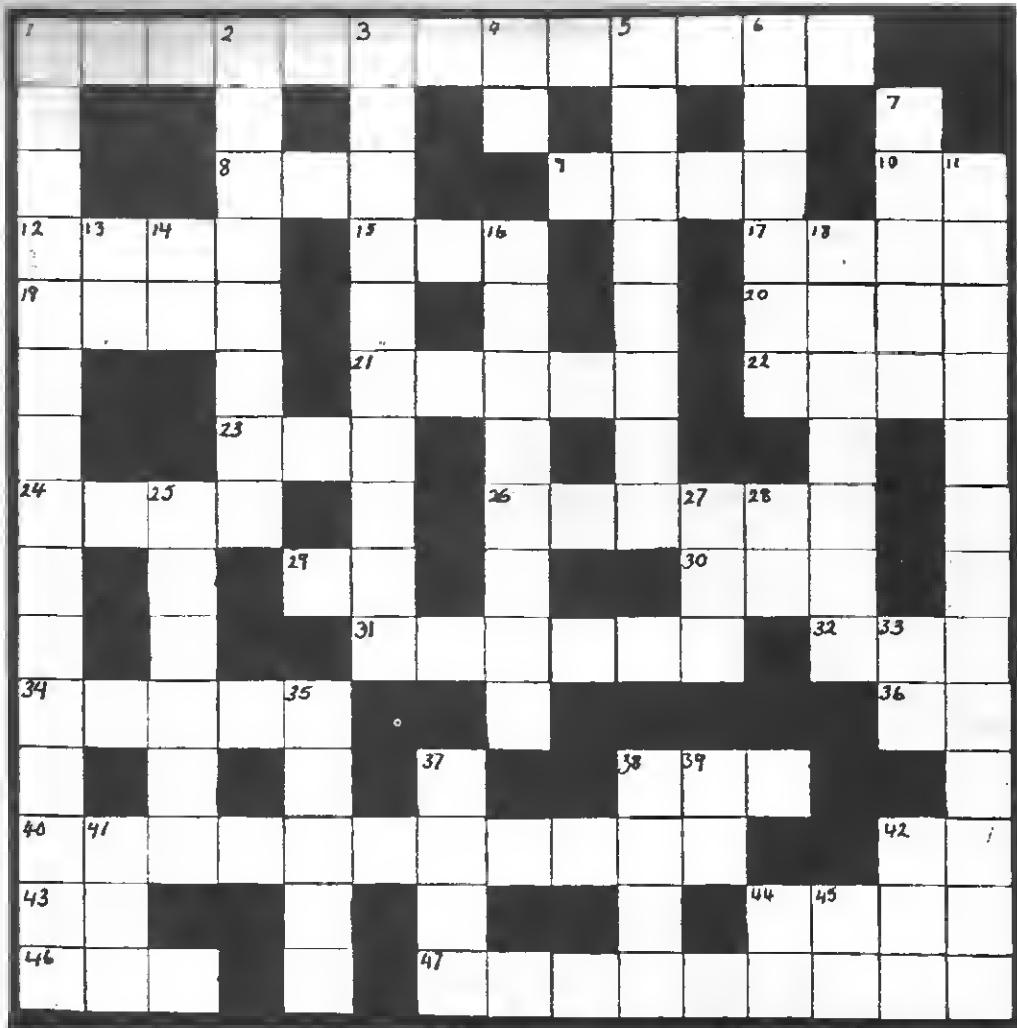
submission with Wellington Chapter of Black Power.

It looks like the Wellington Mayor may set up the Beneficiaries and Low Income Earners Standing Committee to advise her and the council. She is very keen and asked for me to supply a list of likely organisations which I did. These were Housing NZ and Wellington City Council tenants, the Wellington People's Resource Centre, the Community Law Centre, users of soup kitchens, those banned from using the soup kitchen, (street "kids" mainly), and more. WUWU has also been working with Black Power on their project to build a marae in the city.

Graham



CROSSWORD



Clues Across

- Train Lion Feat, around false indicator requiring us? (9,4)
- Peanuts for Cancer Research (3)
- One team without a star player (4)
- What was taken out of 25 down? (2)
- Not scrambled, for the Queen? (4)
- Cross-breds & rented protesters have this in common (3)
- Force-fed goose liver (4)
- Locomotives in fridge have no reason for working (4)
- What every fine upstanding citizen should do ??? (4)
- Q! tear up the politicians pretty speeches (5)
- National Unemployed and Beneficiaries Movement, gets you this way (4)
- Slippery, slime, like a Politician, we feel (3)
- Spoil the training courses that aren't available to everyone anymore (4)
- He foils us, and leaves you back before the Ice Age (6)
- See 44 Across (2)
- Short for something useful, often driven (3)
- A green leaf busted, turned me inside out and made me angry (6)
- Goes with feathers, for a sticky time (3)
- See 44 Across (5)
- State Owned Enterprises without the enterprise (2)
- Sign of sickness in octopus (3)
- Power to the People, bye bye (11)
- Taken away again, from 25 Down (2)
- We hear three minus one in Reserve Bank speak equals this (2)
- Comm chair stat is, keeping us on the factory floor for a bowl of rice 4-2-5
- Win the Whitsbread, maybe we hear (3)
- What the dinosaurs died of, or did they burn? (9)

Clues Down

- Scented ice toy, in the mucky history of National Party Election platforms (8,7)
- & 37 Sung three times by big nosed politicians (4,4,4)
- Wizards plaything, to bounce ISS staff morale (10)
- They are strong, especially on the carts (2)
- Minus compassion, old Finance Mistress (8)
- Not an essential monthly item for Jenny Shipley, and what Prince Charles dreams about (6)
- High-rise indigenous symbol (5)
- Watching over you - The old Angels say (3,3,7)
- & 14 The type of girls some feminists may not like, left quickly (2,2)
- See 27 Down (8)
- What's needed to solve all John Banks problems, in one go (1,6)
- They mixed lice pooh, oh, better off out of there (6)
- & 16 Bar used 'Ford' dealer, sold out lately? (3)
- Information Technology, it's meant to create jobs (2)
- We used to get an accommodation benefit, now the landlords get an income supplement (2)
- Yet another political party about to make their encore (5)
- See 2 Down (4)
- To start as a Politician does, you need to be of the long-tailed variety (4)
- The only way our benefits can go (2)
- Where the object of Prince Charlie's dreams go down (3)
- To the tune of millions, student debt, Shakespeare also is a famous producer of these, we hear (3)
- Tame us, no thanks, not this one (2)
- I'm somewhere else mate, leave me out of this one (2)

TE ROOPU RAWAKORE O AOTEAROA

Te Roopu Rawakore o Aotearoa, The Unemployed & Beneficiaries Movement of New Zealand is still in operation. Since its inception in 1983 it has had a varied and colourful history.

In the past 12 months there has been a structural change whereby it is hoped to be more centre driven with the role of the National Collective made up of regional representatives from all over Aotearoa.

We network nationally with community centres, individuals and community groups working to help the unemployed, beneficiaries and low income people of Aotearoa.

These Centres offer some or all of the services as follows:

- ❖ Support and Advocacy advice - Income Support Service, the Employment Service, Accident Compensation, Inland Revenue etc
(Advocacy is where you are helped to get what you are entitled to)
- ❖ Information about the causes of Unemployment.
- ❖ Information about how to get extra Benefit entitlements, eg, Special Benefit, Special Needs Grants, Disability allowance.
- ❖ Budget Advice
- ❖ Debt survival
- ❖ Crisis Counselling - Networking to specialist counselling services.
- ❖ Employer Problems - CTU Sweat-lines - help with Employment Tribunal, unfair dismissal, sexual harassment etc.
- ❖ Redundancy counselling
- ❖ Education Talks to TOPS, Polytechs, Highschools, Community groups and the public
- ❖ Skills Sharing Networks
- ❖ Civil Rights Information
- ❖ Practical help, responding to needs of clients as seen by the clients.

Most centres operate on consensus, are staffed by volunteers and recognise the importance, knowledge and personal experience of every individual involved. Clients often become volunteers, gain confidence, learn new skills, undertake training programmes, and sometimes end up in paid employment.

Centres work to empower people seeking assistance by helping them to find their own solutions.

The organisation is set up in a non-hierarchical manner in order to promote as much participation as possible.

On a National level we have made submissions on relevant bills and have attended conferences hosted by other groups, for example, Peace Power and Politics.

Te Roopu Rawakore is currently working on aspects of the Investigation Unit of Income and Support Services procedures. We are interested in hearing from people who have dealt with them.

We pick up on issues affecting Low Income and Beneficiaries through the media, although the mainstream media are not always receptive to our ideas. We look for, and work with alternatives, such as Access Radio Programmes, other print media and in the long term, creating our own print media. This magazine is part of this cunning plan.

As a consequence of being one of the few organisations that openly and publicly criticize the Government we have major difficulty getting funding from traditional sources. We operate the National Information and Resource Centre on a shoe-string budget. The main function of the resource centre is to keep everyone in touch by sending out Mail-outs to all the groups, and to co-ordinate any National activities. With the establishment of the National Magazine, mail-outs should become a thing of the past.

The National Movement is also working hard to connect all centres electronically using a Bulletin Board system called PlaNet. With the help of a grant from the PSA we hope to see at least 20 of the centres networking this way by the end of this year.

The National Movement's role as a credible effective lobby group for the rights of beneficiaries was seen with its liaison with the Social Policy Agency in Wellington. This was demonstrated by those with the knowledge and first hand experience of what is actually happening out in the various districts, who came to Wellington in the hope of influencing the policy makers. We feel that without the ability to sit down and talk to these people from a National perspective, valuable information would not be fed back directly to those in a position to influence the Minister.

Various centres who have been very visible and effective in particular campaigns, for example the Combined Beneficiaries Union in the Housing Corporation Rent dispute, have been willing to share their experience gained at conferences of Te Roopu Rawakore.

Unfortunately, with growing numbers of beneficiaries, especially the unemployed, the workload of many Centres and the number of centres working is constantly on the increase. But, conversely, the support from Government is on the decrease. Our own national meetings are held approximately every three months where as many centres as possible attend.



Te Roopu Rawakore o Aoteaora

- ARM AUCKLAND (09) 815-2110
- COMBINED BENEFICIARIES UNION. FAX (09) 376-4469
CENTRAL (09) 376-4760
HENDERSON (09) 836-9180
WAIHEKE (09) 372-8831
MANAKAU CITY (09) 267-9585
- POVERTY ACTION COALITION'S
NORTH SHORE (09) 443-0369
WESTERN SPRINGS (09) 849-6829
- SANDRINGHAM / ROSKILL DAYTIME CENTRE
(09) 846-4276
- COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK, BEACHAVEN
(09) 483-9770
- MERCY HAVEN TRUST, MANGERE
(09) 275-9687?
- SOCIAL NEEDS ACTION GROUP (09) 270-3816
- BENEFICIARIES INFO & ADVOCACY, NORTHCOTE
(09) 418-1833

- TE WHARE AWHINA O TE IWI, MAUNGAMUKU
BRIDGE, NORTHLAND (09) 401-8991
- BREAM BAY UNEMPLOYED & BENEFICIARIES
SUPPORT GROUP (09) 432-7858
- TE RUNUNGA O WHAINGAROA, KAEAO
(09) 405-0340

- TARANAKI YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST
(06) 758-7182
- BENEFICIARIES ADVISORY SERVICES &
INFORMATION CENTRE, WHANGANUI
(06) 347-6618
- MANAWATU WORKERS UNEMPLOYED
RIGHTS CENTRE (06) 357-3737
- HOROWHENUA UNEMPLOYED &
BENEFICIARIES COMMUNITY CENTRE
(06) 368-0282
- UPPER HUTT RESOURCE CENTRE
(04) 527-9720
- WELLINGTON UNEMPLOYED WORKERS
UNION (04) 384-8624
- ARM WELLINGTON (04) 384-1364

- HUNTLEY UNEMPLOYED AND BENEFICIARIES
UNION (07) 828-8097
- HAMILTON RESOURCE CENTRE (07) 838-1793
- WAIHI UNEMPLOYED GROUP (07) 863-6866
- TE ROOPU A IWIO TE PUKE (07) 573-6165
- TE AWAMUTU WOMENS CENTRE (07) 871-8152
- SOUTH WAIKATO UNEMPLOYED &
BENEFICIARIES UNION (07) 886-6377

- CONTACT TRUST FOR THE
UNEMPLOYED, NAPIER (06) 843-2513
- COMBINED UNION OF BENEFICIARIES,
HASTINGS (06) 878-2795
- DANNEVIRKE & DISTRICTS
COMMUNITY CENTRE (06) 374-6994
- WAIRARAPA COMMUNITY CENTRE
(06) 377-4134
- CARTERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
(06) 379-7306

- MARLBOROUGH UNEMPLOYED WORKERS UNION, BLENHEIM (03) 578-6879
- BENEFICIARIES & UNWAGED TRUST, NELSON (03) 548-8171
- ARM - CHRISTCHURCH (03) 377-0918
- TE ROOPU RAWAKORE HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT, OTAUTAHI / CHCH (03) 377-0918
- BENEFICIARIES ADVISORY SERVICE, CHRISTCHURCH (03) 379-8787
- BULLER FOUNDATION & CHARITABLE TRUST, WESTPORT (03) 789-8099
- THE ADVISORY & SUPPORT CENTRE, OTAGO, ASCO, DUNEDIN (03) 218-6526
- SOUTHLAND BENEFICIARIES & COMMUNITY RIGHTS CENTRE,
INVERCARGILL (03) 218-6526